

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/887,313

Applicant(s)

BANDINI ET AL.

Examiner

Paul Callahan

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 4-21-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date PC
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action, when taken with the cancellation of the rejected claims as per the after-final amendment filed 4-21-06, is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

2. Claims 8-15 were pending at the time of the previous, final Office Action. Claims 8-12 have been cancelled by the latest amendment. Therefore Claims 13-15 remain pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 4-21-06 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. All US and Foreign Patent documents cited therein have been considered. The cited non-Patent literature documents have become separated from the file and could not be retrieved from any source, and therefore were not considered. If the applicant wishes these references to be considered they must be resubmitted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Under the Section heading: RELATED APPLICATIONS, lines 5-6 are amended to read:

This application is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application 09/180,377,
filed on November 3, 1998, now US Patent 6,609,196. International Application
PCT/US02/19628 is a continuation of this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 13-15 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art in the field, Landfield, US 5,632,011, and S. Kent, "Privacy Enhancements for Internet Electronic Mail, Part II: Certificate Based Key Management"; Network Working Group Request For Comments 1422, Feb. 1993, do not teach the combination of features found in the independent claim, including incorporation of a security manager that determines if a signature is required for a received e-mail message by applying a signature policy, where the policy includes rules to determine whether a signature is required by reference to attributes of the e-mail message, and where the security manager retrieves a signing certificate for the message by applying signature policy rules that identify the kind of signing certificate to retrieve by referencing attributes of the e-mail message, and subsequently applying the retrieved signing certificate to the message.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul E. Callahan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise, can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is: (571) 273-8300.

5-30-06

Paul Callahan

E. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER